



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

July 6, 2016

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To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer 

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains a report on legislation of County interest related to funding for the development and enhancement of State and local parks:

- **AB 2444 (Garcia)** – related to the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016, a proposed November 2016 ballot measure to authorize the issuance of \$3.12 billion in bonds for the improvement of State and local parks, in addition to water, climate, and coastal protection.

The deadline for placing statewide ballot measures on the November 2016 ballot was June 30, 2016, unless an exception is included in legislation. AB 2444 contains this exception and it is an urgency clause which would make this measure take effect immediately, if enacted.

Legislation of County Interest

AB 2444 (Garcia), which as amended on June 23, 2016, would place the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2016 (Act) on the November 8, 2016 ballot. If approved by the voters, the Act would

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authorize the issuance of State general obligations bonds in the amount of \$3.12 billion to be used to finance parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all programs. Specifically, AB 2444 would allocate funding as follows:

1) \$995.0 million for Safe Neighborhood Parks (in park-poor neighborhoods)

- For a competitive grant program in accordance with the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008.

2) \$1.06 billion for Local and Regional Parks

- \$450.0 million for local park rehabilitation and improvement per capita grants – with 60 percent allocated to cities and park districts, and 40 percent to counties, regional parks, and open space districts.
- \$35.0 million for grants to small cities and districts (200,000 people or less).
- \$120.0 million for competitive grants to regional park districts, counties, open space districts, and non-profits to expand, rehabilitate, or restore parks and facilities.
- \$350.0 million in competitive grants for restoration and preservation of existing State park facilities.
- \$50.0 million in competitive grants for trails and waterfront greenway investment.
- \$50.0 million in competitive grants for rural recreation.

3) \$1.07 billion for Water and Land Conservation

- \$210.0 million for river parkways and urban streams, including:
 - Not less than 50 percent for the Los Angeles River (with a 50/50 split between the upper and lower river);
 - 5 percent for the Santa Ana River; and
 - Remainder for grants for projects that are consistent with the California River Parkway Act of 2004.

- \$245.0 million for State conservancies, including:
 - \$5.0 million for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy;
 - \$25.0 million for the San Gabriel and Lower L.A. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$20.0 million for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$17.5 million for the California Tahoe Conservancy;
 - \$10.0 million for the Coachella Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$15.0 million for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy;
 - \$25.0 million for the Salton Sea Authority;
 - \$15.0 million for the San Diego River Conservancy;
 - \$10.0 million for the San Joaquin River Conservancy;
 - \$22.5 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; and
 - \$80.0 million for the State Coastal Conservancy.
- \$650.0 million for climate preparedness and habitat resiliency.

Under existing law, programs have been established pursuant to bond acts for, among other things, the development and enhancement of State and local parks and recreational facilities. In recent years, voters have approved various measures to provide funds for parks, rivers, and coastal protection programs. Most recently, California voters approved the:

- 1) \$2.1 billion Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Act of 2000;
- 2) \$2.6 billion California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002; and
- 3) \$5.4 billion Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

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AB 2444 would require the State to develop and adopt project guidelines and hold public hearings before it finalizes the guidelines; and require the California Department of Finance to perform and publish an audit of expenditures of the bond funds.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis of AB 2444, the annual cost to the State General Fund for principal and interest payments will be approximately \$194.0 annually during the bond repayment period.

AB 2444 is similar to **County-support-and-amend SB 317 (De León) of 2015**, which would have authorized the issuance of \$2.45 billion to finance safe neighborhood parks, river, and coastal protection programs. SB 317 died on the Senate inactive file.

AB 2444 bill is supported by: Audubon California; Big Sur Land Trust; Bolsa Chica Land Trust; California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members; California Association of Park Districts (in concept); California Association of Recreation and Park Districts; California Council of Land Trusts; California Park and Recreation Society; East Bay Regional Park District; Land Trust of Santa Cruz County; Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District; San Francisco Parks Alliance; Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority; Sonoma County Regional Parks; Sonoma County Water Agency; State Park Partners Coalition; Nature Conservancy; and Watershed Conservation Authority. The measure is opposed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

AB 2444 passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee by a vote of 4 to 1 on June 29, 2016. This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, 2016. AB 2444 contains an urgency clause and would take effect immediately, if enacted.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
PC:AO:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participant